

REMARKS

Claim 3 is canceled herein. Claims 1, 2 and 4-12 now remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-12 over Admitted Prior Art and Brodeur

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Admitted Prior Art ("Admission") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,525,434 to Brodeur ("Brodeur"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The subject matter of claim 3 is amended into independent claim 1, and claim 3 is canceled herein. As a result, claims 1, 2 and 4-12 recite measuring a **plurality of voltage levels** supplied to a **plurality of sections of an integrated circuit**.

The Office Action acknowledges what Admission fails to teach. However, the Office Action fails to account for what Admission teaches. Admission teaches a single voltage regulator (500) powering a plurality of sections (402, 403 and 404) of an integrated circuit (550). (see Fig. 5). Admission teaches regulating power on a power rail (400) by measuring voltage at a single location at the **power rail**.

A prior art reference must be considered in its entirety, i.e., as a whole, including portions that would **lead away** from the claimed invention. MPEP §2141.02, page 2100-127 (Rev. 2, May 2004) (citing W.L. Gore & Assoc. v. Garlock, Inc., 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), cert. denied, 469 U.S. 851 (1984)). Admission **teaches away** from measuring power and voltage at a **plurality of locations**, much less from a **plurality of sections of an integrated circuit**, i.e., measuring a **plurality of voltage levels** supplied to a plurality of sections of an integrated circuit.

Moreover, claims 1, 2 and 4-9 are amended herein to recite **augmenting** power supplied to at least one integrated circuit power rail, the augmented power **compensating for power fluctuations between a plurality of sections of an integrated circuit**. Claims 10-12 are amended herein to recite **augmenting** a voltage supplied to at least one integrated circuit rail, the

augmented voltage **compensating** for voltage fluctuations between a plurality of sections of an integrated circuit.

The Office Action acknowledges that Admission “fails to teach a plurality of voltage regulators and voltage meters, the inner workings of the first integrated voltage regulator, and a control system.” (see Office Action, page 2) But, the Office Action relies on Brodeur to allegedly disclose the acknowledged deficiency in Admission to arrive at the claimed features. The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Brodeur discloses a switching circuit useful in forming a DC converter. (See Brodeur, Abstract) A comparator associated with each output compares the voltage at a given output with a reference voltage for the respective given output and generates a first signal the moment the output voltage exceeds the reference voltage. (see Brodeur, Abstract) Responding to the first signal a switch opens the converter transformer secondary winding. (see Abstract)

Brodeur’s DC converter monitors voltage. Once the monitored voltage exceeds a reference voltage, Brodeur opens a converter transformer secondary winding to discharge the exceedingly high voltage. (see Abstract) Thus, Brodeur’s invention is directed towards lowering voltage that exceeds a reference voltage, the opposite of Applicant’s claimed features, which require **augmenting** power supplied to at least one IC power rail. Brodeur fails to disclose, teach or suggest **augmenting** power and voltage supplied to at least one integrated circuit power rail, much less to **compensate for power and voltage fluctuations between a plurality of sections of an integrated circuit**, as recited by claims 1, 2 and 4-12.

For at least all the above reasons, claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Bollman", written over a horizontal line.

William H. Bollman

Reg. No.: 36,457

Tel. (202) 261-1020

Fax. (202) 887-0336

MANELLI DENISON & SELTER PLLC

2000 M Street, N.W. 7th Floor

Washington D.C. 20036-3307

WHB/df